UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WISCONSIN FIRM GETS CONTRACT FOR NEW INTERIOR OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSEL

A \$1,747,876 contract for building the David Starr Jordan, Department of the Interior research vessel to be based at San Diego, Calif., has been awarded to the Christy Corporation of Sturgeon Bay, Wisc., the Department announced today. The ship is to be delivered by October 1964.

The David Starr Jordan will be used by the Fish and Wildlife Service for tuna research and on other fishery and oceanographic investigations. The new vessel will have an overall length of 171 feet, a 32-foot beam, and 11-foot draft. She will replace the 152-foot Black Douglas, which is over 30 years old.

Twin diesel engines of 450 horsepower, each with controllable pitch propellers, will drive the ship at 12 knots. Cruising range will be more than 9,000 miles. She will be able to remain at sea more than 40 days.

Named after the prominent ichthyologist and first president of Stanford University, the David Starr Jordan will be of welded steel construction, with ranked stem and transom stern. She will have two partial decks below and three superstructure decks above the main deck.

More than a third of the ship's enclosed area will be devoted to laboratories and scientific support area for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Laboratories include a biological specimen area, hydrographic, chemical and live animal holding areas. Support areas will include a large walk-in freezer, photographic darkroom, a lead-lined X-ray and radioactive material storage area, a data processing and scientific conference room, and a scientific information center containing fish-finding sonar, precision depth recording equipment, and scientific support radar.

Other features are a large enclosed winch room, a combination scientific shop and storage area, and an underwater observation station at the bow and

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on the port side. There will be living and working spaces for the 22 crew members and 13 scientists.

Winches will include a combination seine-trawl winch and a deep dredge winch in the winch room, two hydrographic winches, a bathythermograph winch, and a special instrument winch.

Another Department of the Interior research vessel, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Albatross IV, recently was completed and now is operating out of Woods Hole, Mass.

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Note to Editors: An artist's rendition of the David Starr Jordan is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.